

REMARKS

Claims 21-50 are pending.

The Office Action rejects claims 21-50 under 35 USC§102(e) over Bero (US Pat. 6,769,031). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present application claims priority from application serial No. 60/215,763, filed on June 30, 2000. Bero was filed on September 20, 2000, and is thus not prior art against the application. Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection.

CONCLUSION

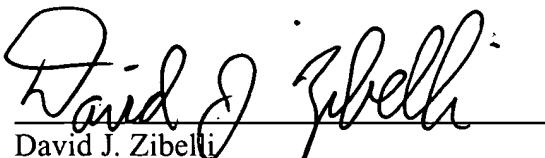
In view of the above submitted amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims of the present application are allowable over the cited prior art. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 220-4200 to discuss any matter concerning this application. The Applicant respectfully requests an interview with the Examiner at the Examiner's earliest possible convenience. The Office is hereby authorized to

charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 to
Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

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